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IN THIS ISSUE . . .

A Guide to the NIPA's

Gross Product by Industry Price Measures, 1977–96

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U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services (February 19),
Gross Domestic Product (February 27), and
Personal Income and Outlays (March 2).

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Special in this issue

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Price measures of gross product originating (GPO) by industry can be used to compare price changes across industries and to compute industry contributions to the change in GDP prices. For example, the largest contributors to the 2.3-percent increase (annual rate) in the GDP price index in 1992–96 were the services industry group and the finance, insurance, and real estate industry group (0.7 percentage point each). Unit-cost measures by industry can be used to identify the sources of GPO price change among the cost components of GPO. For example, the labor cost per unit of real GPO declined in 1992–96 for the mining and the durable goods manufacturing industries and was unchanged for the wholesale trade industry.

26 A Guide to the NIPA's

BEA presents a compilation of information that will help users to better understand the NIPA's. This guide provides the definitions of the major aggregates and components; discusses the measures of real output and prices; explains how production is classified and how the NIPA's are presented; describes the statistical conventions that are used; and lists the principal source data and methods used to prepare the estimates of GDP.

Regular features

1 Business Situation

The "preliminary" estimate of real GDP indicates a 3.9-percent increase in the fourth quarter of 1997, 0.4 percentage point lower than the "advance" estimate; a large downward revision to net exports and smaller downward revisions to government spending and consumer spending were only partly offset by a large upward revision to business inventory investment. Despite these revisions, real GDP growth still shows an acceleration from a 3.1-percent increase in the third quarter. The price index for gross domestic purchases increased 1.4 percent, about the same pace as in the third quarter.

8 Federal Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 1999

Each year, BEA prepares a "translation" of the administration's budget that puts the budget's receipts and outlays on a basis that is consistent with the framework of the NIPA's. In the NIPA framework, the Federal current deficit would be \$9.9 billion in fiscal year 1999; the administration's budget shows a \$9.5 billion surplus. The difference primarily results from the difference in the treatment of government investment in fixed assets; the consumption of fixed capital that is included in the NIPA's is greater than the investment that is excluded.

Reports and statistical presentations

D-1 BEA Current and Historical Data

Inside back cover: BEA Information

(A listing of recent BEA publications available from GPO)

Back cover: Schedule of Upcoming BEA News Releases

LOOKING AHEAD

- ✿ ***U.S. Transportation Satellite Account.*** An article that presents the 1992 transportation satellite account for the United States will be published in a forthcoming issue of the SURVEY. The transportation satellite account, developed jointly by BEA and the Bureau of Transportation, is based on an expansion of the 1992 benchmark input-output accounts. It provides estimates of expenditures on transportation that supplement the existing estimates in the national economic accounts.
 - ✿ ***Domestic Content of the Production of U.S. Manufacturing Affiliates of Foreign Companies.*** An article that compares the domestic content of output of U.S. manufacturing affiliates of foreign companies with that of other U.S. manufacturing companies will be published in a forthcoming issue of the SURVEY. The article also examines the extent to which U.S. manufacturing affiliates rely on foreign sources for their intermediate inputs and whether the affiliates' production is intended for U.S. or foreign markets.
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